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PATENT 27
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 09812.0134-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Steffen GUTMANN et al.) Group Art Unit: ~~Not Yet Assigned~~
) 2628
)
Application No.: 10/593,150) Examiner: ~~Not Yet Assigned~~
) Maurice McDowell
)
Filed: September 18, 2006)
) Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned
)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
DETECTING PLANE, AND)
ROBOT APPARATUS HAVING)
APPARATUS FOR DETECTING)
PLANE (AS AMENDED))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Computer generated English translations of Japanese Patents 3176701, 3330710, and 3278467 and Japanese Published Application No. 05-223549 are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

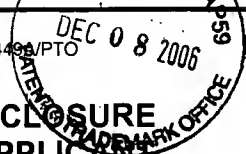
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 8, 2006

By: 

Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449a/PTO



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/593,150 |
| Filing Date | September 18, 2006 |
| First Named Inventor | GUTTMANN et al. |
| Art Unit | Not Yet Assigned 2628 |
| Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Attorney Docket Number | 09812.0134-00000 |

Sheet

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of

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| U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| /M.M./ | | US-5,378,969 | 01-03-1995 | Haikawa | |
| /M.M./ | | US-5,402,050 | 03-28-1995 | Ozawa | |
| /M.M./ | | US-5,737,217 | 04-07-1998 | Nishikawa et al. | |
| /M.M./ | | US-6,021,363 | 02-01-2000 | Nishikawa et al. | |
| | | US- | | | |
| | | US- | | | |

Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| /M.M./ | | JP 05-223549 | 08-31-1993 | Watanabe | | Yes |
| /M.M./ | | JP 3176701 | 04-06-2001 | Haikawa | | Yes |
| /M.M./ | | JP 3278467 | 02-15-2002 | Ozawa | | Yes |
| /M.M./ | | JP 3330710 | 07-19-2002 | Nishikawa et al. | | Yes |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
| /M.M./ | | J. SKLANSKY; "Measuring Concavity on a Rectangular Mosaic", IEEE Trans. Comput. 21, 1972, pages 1355-1364. | |
| /M.M./ | | A. MELKMAN; "On-Line Construction of the Convex Hull of a Simple Polygon", Information Processing Letters 25; 1987; pages 11-12. | |
| /M.M./ | | U.S. Patent Application No. 10/593,149, filed on September 18, 2006; National Stage of International Publication No. WO 2005/087452 | |
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|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Examiner Signature | /Maurice McDowell, Jr./ | Date Considered | 12/13/2008 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.